

**Minutes of the Grinnell City Council Meeting
Monday, December 19, 2005**

The City Council of the City of Grinnell met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Grinnell Community Center, 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 19, 2005. Mayor Canfield presided.

Roll Call: PRESENT: Elliott, Worley, Witt, Wilson, White.
 ABSENT: McNaul.

PERFECTING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by WHITE, second by WORLEY, to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Worley, Elliott, Wilson, Witt. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Previous minutes as drafted from the Monday, December 5, 2005 Regular Session.
- B. Approval of the Class BW Liquor License Renewal for Chuong Garden, 915 Broad Street.
- C. Approval of the Class LC Liquor License Transfer from 1011 Park Street to 1114 10th Avenue for Grinnell College.
- D. Approval of the application for Iowa Retail Cigarette/Tobacco Permit for Murphy USA #7302, 521 Industrial Avenue.
- E. Review of the request submitted by the Poweshiek County Republicans and the Poweshiek County Democrats for wavier of fees for the use of the community center on Monday, January 16, 2006 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm to conduct party caucuses.

COMMUNICATIONS/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- A. Finance Committee: December 5, 2005
- B. Planning Committee: December 5, 2005
- C. Public Works and Grounds Committee: December 5 and 12, 2005
- D. Public Safety Committee: December 6, 2005
- E. POW I-80: December 1, 2005
- F. Grinnell Tourism: November 16, 2005 and financials
- G. Miscellaneous Correspondence: Sheila Diehm – in regard to moving outside city limits, Theresa Petersen – thank you, Randy Courter – resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission, communication with the Grinnell Housing Authority, November Monthly Report from the Grinnell Police Department, Mediacom – cable rate increase.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- A. Report from the Finance Committee.
 - o Review of the contract amendment in regard to the EPC TIF rebate.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2905: "RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT BY AND

BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRINNELL AND ENGINEERED PLASTIC COMPONENTS, INC. AND REZA KARGAZADEH." Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Elliott, Worley, Witt, Wilson. Motion carried.

- Discussion in regard to the Jeld-Wen expansion.

White updated the council that staff continues to work with the industry as they attempt to gain state funding assistance for on going expansion.

- Budget preparation update and review of meeting schedule.

White reviewed the upcoming budget season and scheduled meeting dates.

- Discussion in regard to the implementation of Local Option Sales Tax.

White stated two council committees have had extensive discussion in regard to the possible pursuit of local option sales tax. The committee directed the Mayor to draft a letter to the board of supervisors to schedule a meeting to open county wide discussion. Elliott stated she has not been persuaded to support the tax; however she supports the city's effort to determine the level of interest, without making a commitment to pursue tax. Implementation of the tax would require a public election.

- Review of the request by The Galaxy.

White summarized the request made by The Galaxy for a \$10,000.00 contribution from the city. He explained normally this request is funded by the Campbell Fund, however due to the projected need from the rising cost of utilities, the committee was concerned about committing too much funding in advance of the most difficult months.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to provide \$5,000.00 of funding from the Campbell Fund for The Galaxy and future considerations will be made through the budgetary process.

Doug Cutchins – 1309 Broad Street – serves on the board for the Galaxy. He feels support of the organization is an economic development tool for the city. He stated a recent poll of Grinnell kids reflected there are not enough substance free places in the community. He also provided statistics about the reduction in juvenile crime that he feels can be attributed to the operation of The Galaxy. Cutchins was proud of the civic involvement the kids have experienced through community festivals and participation in other local events.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Elliott, Wilson, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

- Review of the requests for assistance from the Campbell Fund.

The requests were approved as presented.

B. Report from the Planning Committee.

There was no report from the Planning Committee as there was no quorum for the meeting.

C. Report from the Public Works and Grounds Committee.

- Approval of Pay Request No. 13 in regard to the Central Business District.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2906: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CONTRACTOR'S PROGRESS PAYMENT NO. 13 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$103,167.36 TO MANATT'S INC. OF BROOKLYN, IOWA FOR WORK COMPLETED ON THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION PHASE 1." Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Worley, White, Wilson. Motion carried.

- Discussion in regard to the Park Task Force.

Elliott summarized the progress to date of the Park Task Force. The Task Force supports active involvement of the citizens in the process of the development of the park plan. They have identified two options to achieve this involvement. They are: possibly hiring a consultant to direct the process and/or hiring local staff to facilitate meetings and discussion. Once the Task Force has the opportunity to review the RFP and the job description, they will make a formal recommendation.

Martha Pinder - 1326 Main Street – informed the Council that Imagine Grinnell has agreed to provide \$3,000.00 - \$5,000.00 to assist the city's effort to hire a local employee to manage the plan.

- Discussion in regard to the bike trail project.

Elliott reviewed the grant proposal prepared by Imagine Grinnell for additional funding for the construction of the bike trail. The application will provide \$175,000.00 of funding and require \$150,000 local match. The local match has been secured through other grants and a local development.

Liz Queathem - 1415 Summer Street – indicated where the trail would be located on the city map. The trail would run south from the north end of Arbor Lake, along the east side of the lake, cross Hobo Run, and then adjacent to Highway 146 to Industrial Avenue. Imagine Grinnell is not pursuing the connection to the trail head at this time as the grant program cannot fund the cost of the under pass required on Highway 6. The trail also can be used as a sidewalk.

Worley confirmed the committed local match and the grant would cover the total cost of this project.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2907: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE STATE RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM FOR THE GRINNELL AREA RECREATIONAL TRAIL." Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Wilson, White, Worley. Motion carried.

- Update in regard to the e-waste project.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2908: "A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS RELATED TO PROPER E-WASTE DISPOSAL." Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Worley, White, Wilson. Motion carried.

- Review and accept Task I, Phase I, technical report for the municipal swimming pool from Burbach Aquatics.

There was no discussion on this item due to the lack of a quorum at the committee meeting.

- Discussion in regard to the storm water utility.

Elliott explained staff has reached a point with this project where they can no longer proceed with the project until the council states their position with the issue. Elliott stated this fee would be paid by all properties in Grinnell; non-profit property would not be exempted. This fee would provide long term funding for infrastructure.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to direct staff to proceed with the implementation of a storm water utility. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Wilson, White, Worley. Motion carried.

- Update in regard to the Poweshiek Water Association agreements.

This item continues to progress. Staff will present more information as it develops.

The council agreed by consensus to forward the burning issue from public safety to public works and grounds.

D. Report from the Public Safety Committee

- Discussion in regard to the implementation of Local Option Sales Tax.

Wilson reviewed the discussion of the committee for their desire to seek local option sales tax funding for the construction of a new public safety building. These funds would be used in lieu of property tax. While this will not reduce property tax bills, it will assist in keeping them at the lowest level possible.

- Review of the rural fire association agreements.

This item will be discussed in detail at the next regular committee meeting. All parties affected by the agreements have been invited. The discussion will also include review of the ambulance service contracts. The committee will report to the council on this topic again at a later date.

- Discussion in regard to increasing the stipend for volunteers on reimbursed Haz-Mat calls.

Wilson will recommend formal action take place in the form of a resolution.

- Continue discussion in regard to open burning/burning ban.

This item was forwarded to the Public Works and Grounds Committee for continued review. Wilson did point out that when Poweshiek County issues a burning ban, it does include the city of Grinnell.

Wilson reviewed the inquiries discussed by the committee including: emergency rescues performed on hybrid cars and upcoming agenda items.

E. Mayor's Committee Appointment Recommendations:

Moved by WHITE, second by WILSON, to approve the Mayor's recommendation and appoint Russ Behrens to the Low Rent Housing Commission. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Wilson, Elliott, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

SECOND READING OF THE ORDINANCES:

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WHITE, to conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 1262: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE II, SECTION 16-17 (Membership, officers; terms and compensation pertaining to the Recreation Board.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, White, Worley, Witt, Wilson. Motion carried.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to conduct the second reading of Ordinance No. 1263: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 13, SECTION 13-503 (ONE-WAY ALLEYS.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Elliott, Wilson, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

FINAL READING OF THE ORDINANCE:

Moved by ELLIOTT, second WILSON, to conduct the final reading of Ordinance No. 1260: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 13, SECTION 13-6 (Maximum Speed on Specific Streets – Highway 146 North.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Motion carried. Wilson, White, Witt, Worley

Moved by WORLEY, second by WITT, to conduct the final reading of Ordinance No. 1261: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 20, SECTION 20-74 (Subdivisions containing or abutting highways.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, Witt, White, Wilson. Nay – Elliott. Motion carried.

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2909: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY AND REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 404 OF THE STATE CODE (Keith and Carolyn Walter, 706 Pine Valley Drive.)"

Worley explained the intent of the Urban Revitalization program. He emphasized this program is available to all citizens as they improve the value of the property, and that it is not based on the income of the property owners.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Elliott, Wilson, Witt, Worley. Motion carried.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2910: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY AND REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 404 OF THE STATE CODE (Van Moore Enterprises, LC., 704 Industrial Avenue.)"

Moved by WHITE, second by WILSON, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2911: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY AND REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 404 OF THE STATE CODE (Deanna Frascht, 510 Harrison Avenue.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Wilson, Elliott, Worley, Witt. Motion carried.

INQUIRIES: None.

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Keith Burnham - 1121 Prince Street – explained his frustration with the back dock of Starnes TV and Appliance adjacent to his property. He explained it is packed with old appliances, televisions, freezers, etc. He anticipated the removal of the junk with the sale of the business, however it has remained. Over the past several months he has worked with the city to have it removed to no avail. He also pointed out vehicles have remained on the property that are not in compliance with city code. Behrens stated the notices have been issued and have expired. He told the council the city needs to take a stronger stance on this property to resolve the issue. The item will be referred to the Public Safety Committee for further review.

Wilson commented the proposed parking study is intended to determine the placement of the handicap spaces. This review will include the downtown parking lots and how they impact downtown residences, determining the amount of spaces needed for the businesses, and the request to expand the three hour parking limitation.

Wilson acknowledged Elliott's work as a council member. He has enjoyed working with her and commended her for her knowledge and participation.

Doug Elliott – 1233 Broad Street – thanked all of the council members for their hard work and support of their family. He reflected on her service and her love of the community. He asked the council to continue working as a team to further city development.

White also enjoyed working with Elliott. He thanked her for always looking out for the best interests of the city. He hoped she would continue public service in some aspect.

Mayor Canfield thanked Elliott for mentoring him through his tenure. He appreciated all he had learned and thanked her.

Witt also thanked Elliott for her service.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

Behrens requested a strategic planning session date be determined by the city council. Staff has recently started meeting with the county on a regular basis to review how each entities work impacts services provided to the public. He invited the members to attend the meetings and participate in the discussions. White relayed the progress made towards re-opening the driver license station in Grinnell. Further discussion has resulted in the decision being expanded to providing service for a full day beginning July 1, 2006. Behrens added the county staff has been wonderful and generally supportive of expanding the services. The IDOT will provide permanent equipment.

ADJOURN:

Moved by WITT, second by WHITE, to adjourn this regular session of the Grinnell City Council at 8:23 pm. Vote: (5) ayes, motion carried.

ATTEST:

Gordon Canfield, Mayor

Cassandra R. Hage, City Clerk

Upon conclusion of the regular session, Mayor Canfield and the members of the city council elected for new terms were sworn in.